

## **IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

August 21, 2012

### **CMS Accepts KanCare Section 1115 Application, Opens Public Comment**

**Topeka** - The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) notified the State of Kansas Monday that its Section 1115 waiver application for KanCare has met the requirements for a complete application under federal regulations and public comment will be accepted Aug. 21<sup>st</sup> through Sept. 20<sup>th</sup>.

The State's application is available on the CMS website, which also is where comments to CMS can be viewed and posted: <http://www.medicaid.gov/Medicaid-CHIP-Program-Information/By-Topics/Waivers/1115/public-comments.html>.

KanCare is Governor Sam Brownback's plan to reform the state's Medicaid system through innovative solutions that will sustain this \$3 billion safety net. The state is leveraging private-sector experience while maintaining policy and hands-on oversight of the Kansas Medicaid program to ensure improved outcomes and sustainable growth. It is estimated that KanCare will reduce the rate of growth in the state's Medicaid spending by more than \$1 billion during the next five years.

Starting in 2013, KanCare will offer Kansas Medicaid consumers three options for integrated care and value-added services. The health plans partnering with the State and the Medicaid service providers are Amerigroup Kansas, Inc., Sunflower State Health Plan, and United Healthcare of the Midwest, Inc. Improvements to the Medicaid program will include expanded coverage for dental care, heart transplants and bariatric services.

Prior to submitting the formal Section 1115 waiver application to CMS, the State held a public comment period that ended July 14. To see the public comments submitted to the State of Kansas on the Section 1115 waiver application, visit KDHE's KanCare page at <http://www.kdheks.gov/hcf/kancare/>.

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